

The patent to Konger discloses a frame that is used to form a duct chase in a joist. The frame comprises two channels 23, 25 disposed in back-to-back relationship. The channels 23, 25 are supported at each end by inverted, omega-shaped hangers 18. The hangers 18 include a downwardly-facing channel that receives a floor joist, and projecting arms that support the shaped channels 23, 25. As shown in Figure 3, channels 23, 25 are not nested inside the downwardly-facing channel of the hanger 18. Instead, the channels 23, 25 are supported by the projecting arms. Further, it is noted that the hangers 18 are not elongated and support the channels 23, 25 only at the ends of the beam. Thus, while Konger discloses a hanger-type support for back-to-back channels, Konger does not teach or suggest first and second sets of elongated nested channels as required by claim 1.

Because the prior art fails to teach or suggest "elongated nested channels" as required by the claims, it is believed that all of the claims are patentable over the prior art made of record by the Examiner and a notice of allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

Respectfully submitted,

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**"Version with markings to show changes made."**

1. A modular I-beam comprising:
  - a. a first set of elongated nested channels;
  - b. a second set of elongated nested channels disposed in back-to-back relation with said first set of elongated nested channels; and
  - c. one or more fasteners securing said first and second sets of elongated nested channels together.
  
24. A modular I-beam comprising:
  - a) a central beam;
  - b) a first set of elongated nested channels disposed on one side of said central beam;
  - c) a second set of elongated nested channels disposed on a second side of said central beam and oriented in a direction opposite said first set of elongated nested channels; and
  - d) one or more fasteners securing said first and second sets of elongated nested channels to said central beam.
  
44. A method of constructing a modular I-beam, said method comprising:
  - a) forming a first set of elongated nested channels;
  - b) forming a second set of elongated nested channels;
  - c) disposing said first and second sets of elongated nested channels in back-to-back relation to one another; and
  - d) fastening said first and second sets of elongated nested channels together.